



Nicky Griffiths chose a warm walnut scheme for her kitchen topped with polished resin quartz. 'The cabinets are really beautiful, like pieces of living furniture,' she says

Using a striking combination of warm walnut, stainless steel and polished quartz, the Griffiths created a kitchen worthy of attention

Wood looking



Although Nicky and Michael Griffiths' new kitchen is tucked neatly at one end of a massive extension, it's certainly no shrinking violet. It runs out onto decking to create a large indoor-outdoor space in the couple's Victorian home. 'We wanted the main space to be clear so that the boys could run around and the view out onto the decking would not be obstructed by kitchen units,' explains Nicky, 'but the kitchen itself still had to stand its ground and make a good impression.'

Statement-making stainless-steel appliances and beautiful bespoke walnut furniture combine to ensure that the kitchen grabs the attention of their guests as they enter the room. It is positioned in the main thoroughfare to the living and outside space, so a large island was introduced to isolate the working area of the kitchen from anyone walking through. The large island is where Nicky does most of her work when preparing a meal, and she loves the fact that wherever she stands, she can always have a view of Leon, five, and Lucas, three, while they are playing.

While the property is traditional in style, Nicky and Michael's tastes definitely are not, so they wanted to retain warmth via natural materials, while also introducing more modern steel and quartz elements to provide a sleeker look. 'One idea for the design came from our existing fridge-freezer – I just love its stainless-steel finish, so we wanted to mirror that look by introducing a stainless-steel range as well,' says Nicky. 'The American-style fridge freezer was also moved into a recess in the wall that once housed the boiler, to help it blend in rather than take over the room.'

A part-time research nurse, Nicky always tries to get home in time to cook a good family meal and often entertains friends and family, as well as the parents of her sons' schoolfriends. 'The other day I invited every mum in Leon's class round for coffee and I really appreciated the fact that I knew the kitchen could cope with such numbers and there would be no need to stress about fitting everyone in. We ended up with about 30 mums, but it was really relaxed and fun,' recalls Nicky. **BK**

▲ The traditional-style property, which is home to Nicky and Michael Griffiths and their two boys, Leon and Lucas, is a Victorian semi-detached house built in the 1890s. A newly constructed extension connects inside and outside, with French windows leading to an expanse of decking

▼ The low window created a void behind the main sink and Nicky worried that over time there would be water damage. However, the resin quartz worktop was fitted so that any gaps were sealed. The Perrin & Rowe chrome tap gleams beside a rinse attachment that Nicky finds extremely useful

▼ A deep drawer under the sink is used to store all of Nicky's kitchen cleaning products. It has been designed with a section cut out of the back to accommodate the plumbing and pipework behind. The colour of the stone flooring ties in with the worktops





Each chrome cabinet handle has been engraved with the name of the kitchen company adding a 'designer' touch to the Griffiths' kitchen. Their shiny surface stands out well against the dark walnut doors. 'There were so many decisions to make, it was overwhelming,' says Nicky

While Nicky moves around the island preparing a meal, she can keep an eye on her two young boys as they play in the garden. The walls were painted using Dulux's Stone and the unusual glass bowl came from Selfridges

THE KITCHEN FILE

DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Richard Moore at **Martin Moore & Company**, 36 Church Street, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4DW (0161 928 2643) www.martinmoorekitchens.com
- Bespoke solid walnut furniture

WORKTOPS

- Polo Stone Italia polished resin quartz, Classico Marble. Per linear m **£400**

SINKS & TAPS

- 3325W Icerock stainless-steel single-bowl sink, Kohler **£320**
- ARX11033 stainless-steel single-bowl sink, Franke **£165**
- 4878 Titan three-hole tap in chrome with rinse, Perrin & Rowe **£365**
- 4863CP Oberon monobloc tap in chrome, Perrin & Rowe **£205**

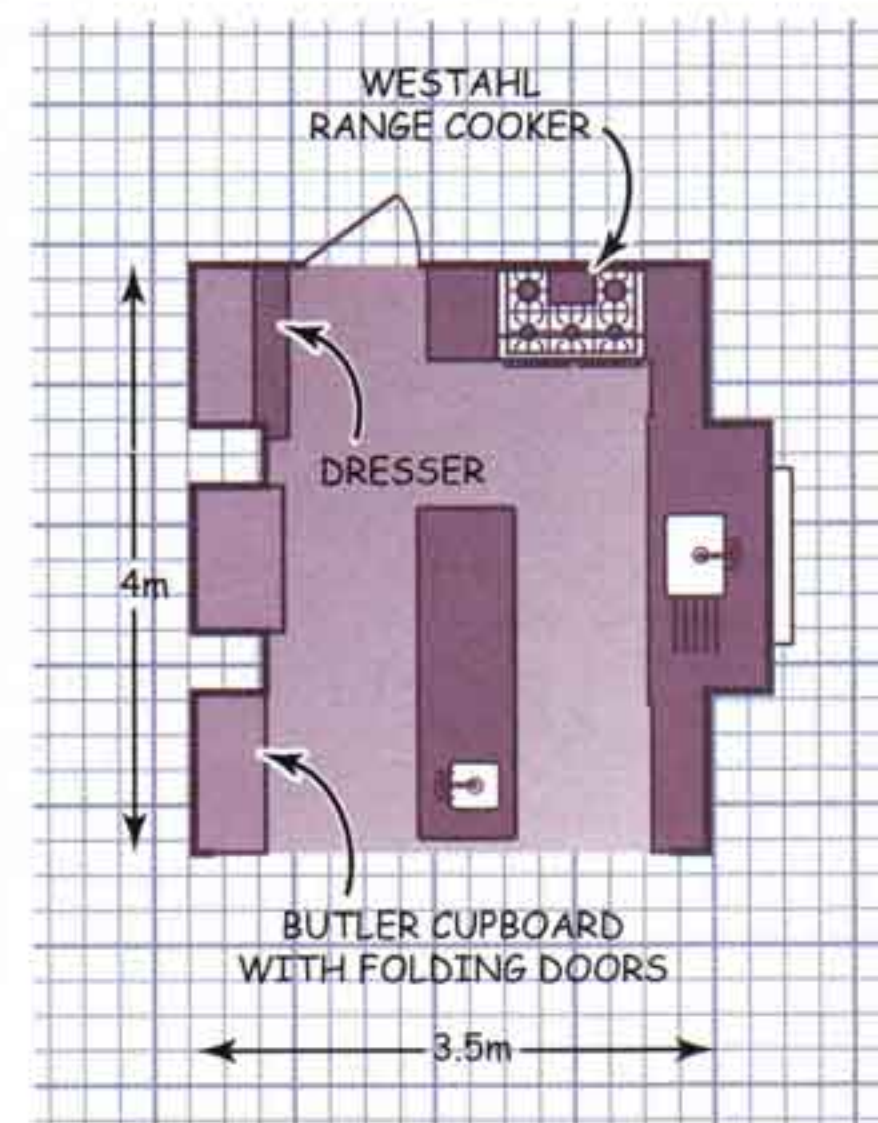
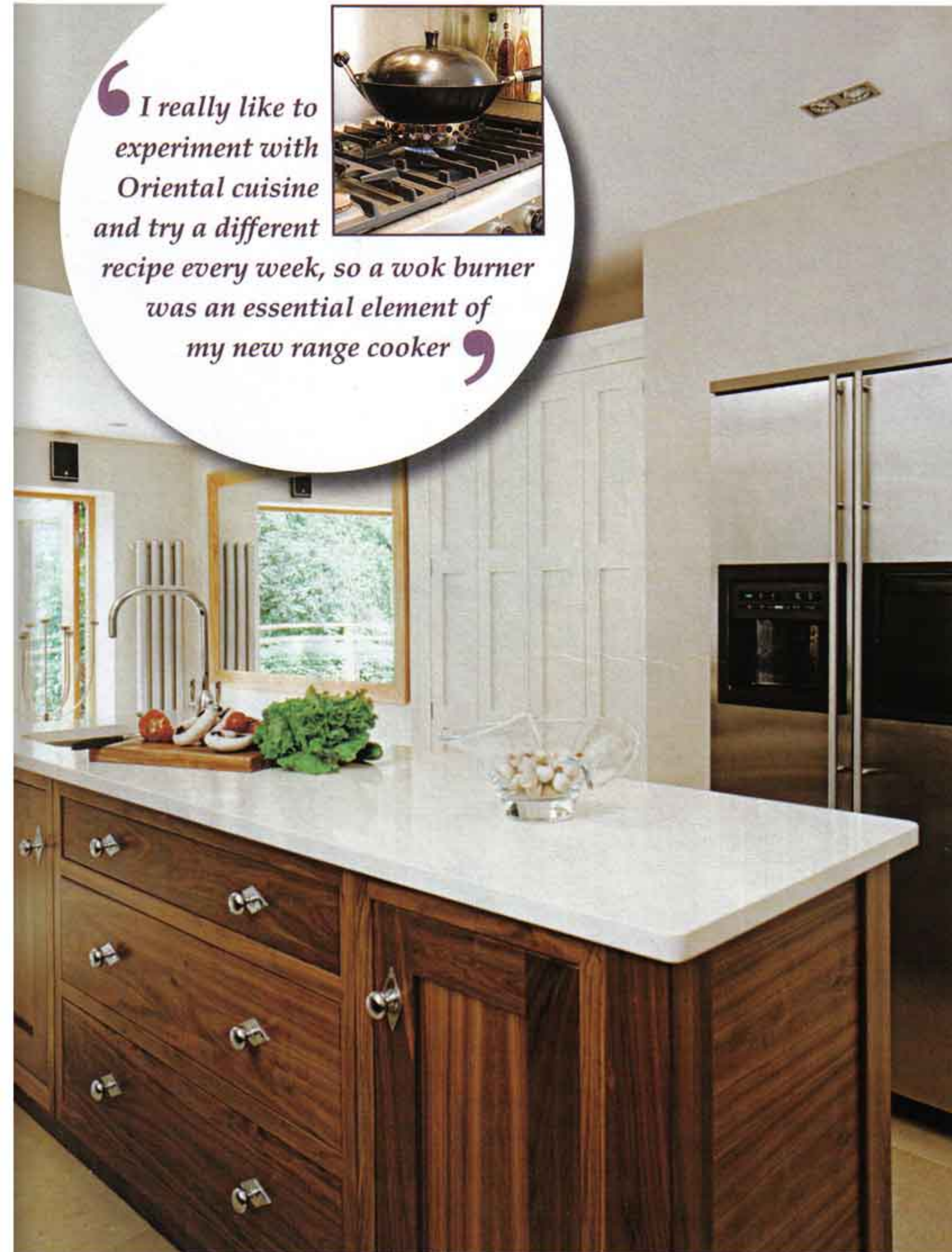
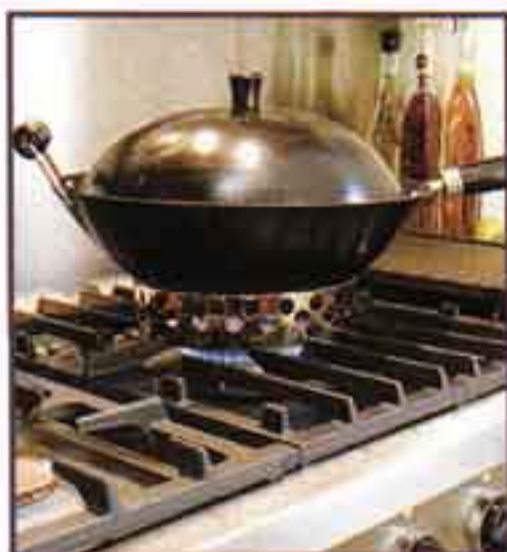
APPLIANCES (shown)

- Existing range cooker, for similar try the Westahl W1052 **£2,559**
- Pro Linear extractor in stainless steel, Fornair **£1,499**
- Existing American-style fridge freezer, for similar try FFU23X, Hotpoint **£2,079**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated dishwasher, Neff **£625**

I really like to experiment with Oriental cuisine and try a different recipe every week, so a wok burner was an essential element of my new range cooker

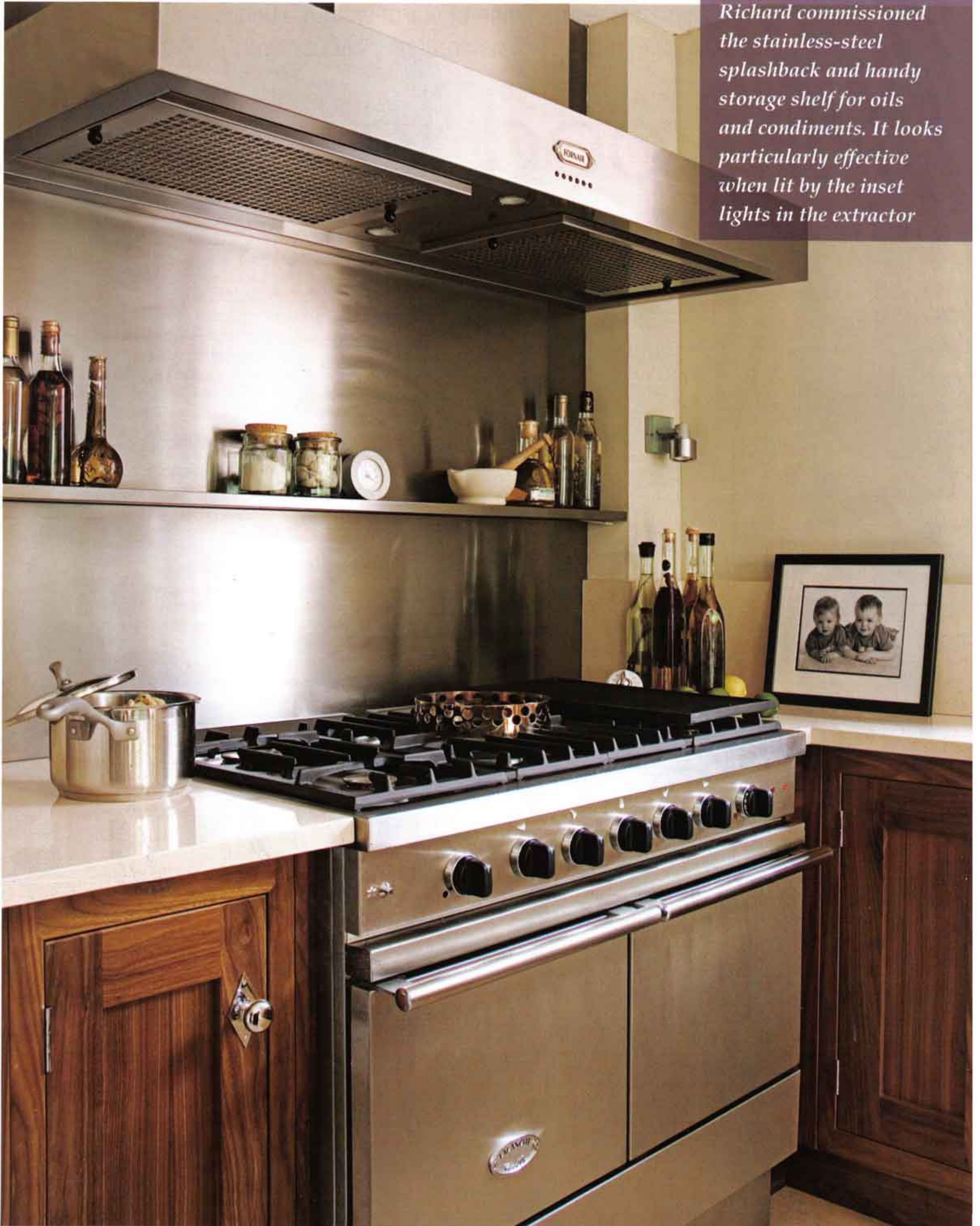


GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Martin Moore kitchen **£25,000**

Where to buy Classico Marble 01753 580044 Dulux 0870 444 1111 Fornair 01202 733011 Franke 0161 436 6280 Hotpoint 0870 150 6070 Kohler 0870 850 5551 Neff 0870 513 3090 Perrin & Rowe 01708 526361 Selfridges 08708 377377 Westahl 01202 733011

Richard commissioned the stainless-steel splashback and handy storage shelf for oils and condiments. It looks particularly effective when lit by the inset lights in the extractor



“ There were so many decisions, it was overwhelming ”